MMR_0028 Lawrence E. Black Jr.

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Lawrence E. Black, Jr., MMR No. 28
8501 Broadway
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

The full name is L. E. Black, Jr., but the CORRECT name is Ed. His parents inflicted him upon mankind in June of 1929, a fact that made the stock market crash seem anti-climactic, at least in Frank's neighborhood.

As a boy his interests were democratically divided twixt Dorfan, Lionel and American Flyer. Had he but kept these he might today be in TCA.

As a youth his real interest was in model airplanes, a phase of his life which we'll quietly skip over. College, service and marriage drew him away from the hobby, 'til he spied MR's 25th Anniversary Issue.

The bug really bit and ever since Ed has been hard at it. His HO Central Indiana RR and subsidiary HOn3 Gnawbone & Beanblossom RR are his second layout. Started in 1961 they feature hand laid trackwork, scratchbuilt structures and rolling stock in a 1915 Midwestern setting.

Trackwork is half completed with scenery on ⅓ the overall track plan. Benchwork is in sections so that the layout can be changed without having to start all over again. The rather tenuous financial support for this engineering masterpiece is supplied by working as a branch manager for an insurance inspection firm.

Ed's wife, Jeanne, originally supported the hobby since it kept his hands out of the pretzel and potato chip bag, but as you can see from the photo, that has been a losing battle. Her attitude has since degenerated into unenthusiastic tolerance. This is unfortunate because she thoroughly enjoys the people in the hobby, if not the hobby itself.

Frank Hughes, President of the Midwest Region, holds Achievement Certificates in the following categories: Master Builder Structures, Master Builder Cars, Master Builder Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer, Civil, Chief Dispatcher, Association Official and Association Volunteer.

Frank's interests in the hobby started as a teenager. He stopped modeling for 20 years, but took it up again in 1960, joining NMRA in 1963. Moving into the MWR he served his Region and Division